

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed, subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ROBB (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 1867. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax reduction for small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 1868. A bill to improve the safety of shell eggs; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 1869. A bill to authorize the negotiation of a Free Trade Agreement with the Republic of Korea, and to provide for expedited congressional consideration of such an agreement; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1870. A bill to authorize the negotiation of a Free Trade Agreement with the Republic of Singapore, and to provide for expedited congressional consideration of such an agreement; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1871. A bill to authorize the negotiation of a Free Trade Agreement with Chile, and to provide for expedited congressional consideration of such an agreement; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. DODD):

S. 1872. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act with respect to the definition of a member business loan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. MACK, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. INHOPE, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. KOHL, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. ENZI, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. GORTON, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. ROBB, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 1873. A bill to delay the effective date of the final rule regarding the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1874. A bill to improve academic and social outcomes for youth and reduce both juvenile crime and the risk that youth will become victims of crime by providing productive personnel during non-school hours; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COCHRAN:

S. 1875. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to remove the prohibition on the use of funds to pay for newspaper or periodical advertising space or radio time; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 1876. A bill to amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 to require a report to Congress; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. Res. 221. A resolution to authorize testimony and document production in the Matter of Pamela A. Carter v. HealthSource Saginaw; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 222. A resolution to revise the procedures of the Select Committee on Ethics; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. Con. Res. 69. A concurrent resolution requesting that the United States Postal Service issue a commemorative postal stamp honoring the 200th anniversary of the naval shipyard system; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

S. Con. Res. 70. A concurrent resolution requesting that the United States Postal Service issue a commemorative postage stamp honoring the national veterans service organizations of the United States; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 1868. A bill to improve the safety of shell eggs; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EGG SAFETY ACT OF 1999

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Egg Safety Act of 1999. This legislation would improve the safety of our nation's egg supply by granting USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) the authority to regulate and inspect shell eggs from farm to retail level, requiring labeling on egg cartons, requiring uniform expiration dating for all shell eggs, and prohibiting repackaging of eggs.

Last year, I requested a report from the General Accounting Office (GAO) regarding the safety of our egg supply. On July 1 of this year, that report was released at a hearing before the Government Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, on which I serve. According to the report, the GAO found cracks, confusion and contradictions in our nation's efforts to protect consumers against contaminated eggs and egg products.

Approximately 67 billion eggs are sold each year in the United States, with each American eating an average of 245 during that time. Eggs are a nutrient-dense food that plays an important part in most Americans' diets, either alone or as an ingredient in other foods. However, eggs, like any other perishable product, need to be handled

with care. Perishable products will always have a degree of risk, but this risk is manageable.

According to the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC), *Salmonella enteritidis* (SE), a bacteria commonly associated with raw or undercooked eggs, caused about 300,000 illnesses in 1997, resulting in between 115 and 230 deaths. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the economic costs of food-borne illnesses related to eggs were estimated to be between \$225 million and \$3 billion in 1996. Between 1985 and 1998, 81.7 percent of SE outbreaks were associated with eggs.

In 1998, the Illinois Department of Public Health recorded 405 reported cases and five deaths resulting from SE. Food-borne illness has struck in Illinois several times over the past decade, including a 1990 outbreak of SE from bread pudding with 1,100 reported cases; a 1993 outbreak of SE from pancakes with 22 reported cases; and a 1993 outbreak of SE from bearnaise sauce with 13 reported cases.

Make no mistake about it: our country has one of the safest egg supplies in the world. But we have the science and know-how to make it even safer. Eating French toast, Caesar salad, or any other foods that may include raw or undercooked eggs is a manageable risk that can be reduced even further. Make some common sense changes in our federal food safety efforts can protect consumers, families and the credibility of U.S. food products at home and abroad.

How would putting all egg safety responsibilities within one agency make eggs safer? According to the GAO report, lack of coordination between the four federal agencies responsible for egg safety has resulted in gaps, inconsistencies and inefficiencies. For example, while one of those agencies, USDA, conducts daily inspections of plants where eggs are broken and made safe by pasteurization, another agency, Food and Drug Administration, rarely inspects egg farms or facilities where unbroken shell eggs are packed unless the agency is trying to trace an outbreak of illness.

The absence of or inconsistent egg carton expiration dating laws can mislead consumers. Consumers may believe the expiration date accurately reflects the age of the egg. For example, when comparing carton dates, a consumer may be more likely to select eggs not graded by USDA because a later date on the carton seems to imply that those eggs are fresher. But the eggs with the later date may actually be the older ones. Under the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service voluntary egg grading program, expiration dates are set at 30 days from the date the eggs were packed. However, some egg processors that do not participate in the voluntary program set their own expiration date or have no expiration date at all.